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Occupational Employment-- Trends and Outlook for Selected Occupations: Somerset County, 1981

Maine Department of Manpower Affairs

Maine Bureau of Employment Security

Maine Division of Manpower Research

Maine Labor Market Information Services

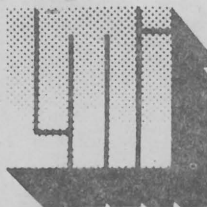
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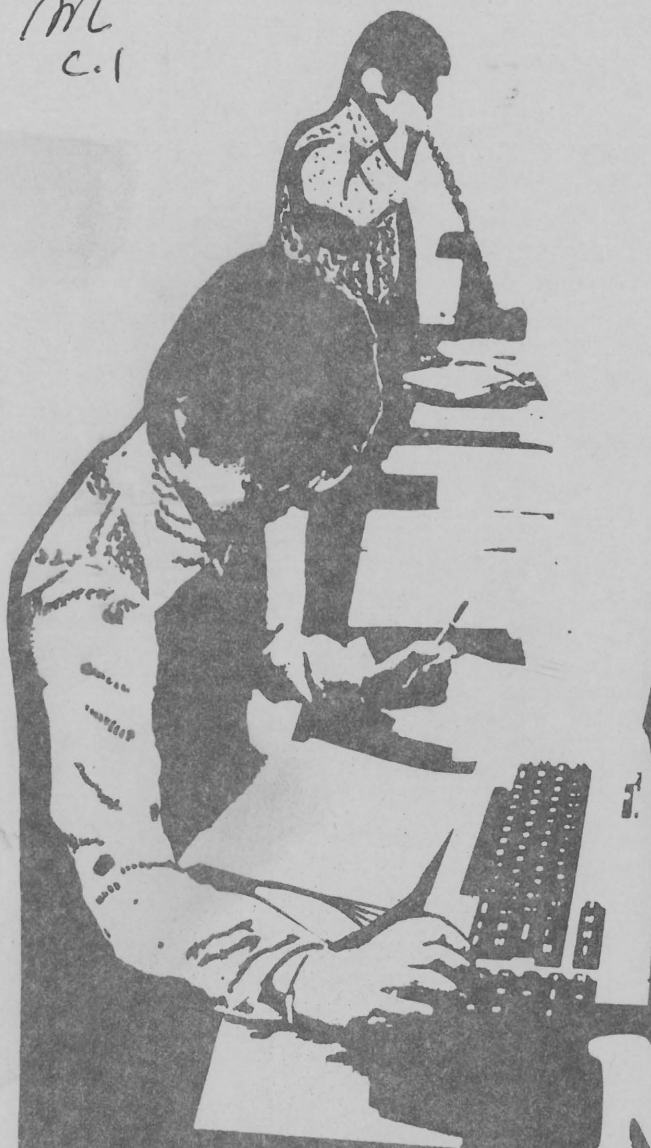
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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT--

TRENDS AND OUTLOOK FOR
SELECTED OCCUPATIONS

SOMERSET COUNTY

Labor Market Information

BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

MANPOWER RESEARCH DIVISION 20 UNION ST. AUGUSTA, ME 04330

A BUREAU OF THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER AFFAIRS

AUG 7 1981

PREFACE

The following technical services monograph provides an abbreviated analysis of occupational employment in Somerset County. The monograph was designed to assist employment and training program planners by identifying those occupations that offer the best chance of success with regard to program design.

Featured within the analysis is a labor market information "tool" identified as an occupational-indicator matrix. The matrix was not designed to be a rigid guide in the choice of occupations for program development, but rather simply to provide a structured approach for evaluating selected characteristics of occupations.

An accompanying appendix to the monograph identifies additional sources of labor market information that might be applicable for employment and training program planning.

Any questions or comments regarding the contents of this monograph should be directed to Michael B. Bird, Manpower Research Analyst--Augusta District, Maine Department of Manpower Affairs, Bureau of Employment Security, Manpower Research Division, 20 Union Street, Augusta, Maine 04330, or by telephone at 207-289-2271.

Ray A. Fongemie, Director
Manpower Research Division

April 1981

A Technical Services Monograph of the Labor Market Information
Field Services Section, Paul E. Luce, Chief

OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT--TRENDS AND OUTLOOK FOR SELECTED OCCUPATIONS

An occupational-indicator matrix was developed for selected occupations in Somerset County in order to provide employment and training planners with an objective guide for considering the development of training programs. Occupations were chosen using county staffing patterns. Only those occupations with employment of 25 or more in 1980 and for which data could be gathered on comparative 1976 employment and 1980 wages were considered. There are five categories which are rank ordered on the matrix and then the aggregate, or composite, index is in turn rank ordered.

The first category to be rank ordered is 1980 employment. Occupations with high employment are ranked in the top positions since those occupations have greater potential for continued employment opportunities. Occupations with greatest replacement potential are nurse aides and/or orderlies, sales clerks, and cashiers.

Net change in employment from 1976 to 1980 is rank ordered next. This category provides an indication of long-term growth and potential new job training, as well as replacement potential. Occupations which evidence greatest growth are nurse aides and/or orderlies, sales clerks, and cashiers.

The third category to be rank ordered is percent change in employment from 1976 to 1980. This category provides for growth in those occupations where employment is small, but growth rates are significant. The top three occupations in this category are millwrights; plumbers and/or pipefitters; and sewing-machine operators, regular equipment-garment.

The fourth category to be rank ordered is starting wages found on the Maine Job Bank list for job orders at the Job Service office in the county or from the statewide list. Occupations which could be considered for training purposes because of high starting wages are electricians (\$6.58 per hour), plumbers and pipefitters (\$6.25 per hour), and heavy equipment operators (\$6.09 per hour).

The fifth category to be rank ordered is the Specific Vocational Preparation (SVP) index. Occupations which have low figures, indicating a lesser degree of training time, are ranked at the top of the matrix. The top occupations include general clerks, office; kitchen helpers; and sewing-machine operators, regular equipment-garment. Each of these occupations require anything beyond a short demonstration up to and including 30 days.

The final category to be rank ordered is the composite index or the aggregate of all categories. The ten occupations which rank at the top of the matrix for Somerset County are professional nurse; plumber and/or pipefitter; cashier; millwright; nurse aide and/or orderly; electrician; sales clerk; janitor, porter, and/or cleaner; industrial truck operator; and faller and/or buckler.

Nurse, professional places first on the matrix due to large employment in 1980, good growth from 1976 to 1980, and above average starting wages. Employment for professional nurses is expected to increase faster than average as demand for health services continues to increase; however, training time for this occupation is lengthy, ranging from over two years to four years beyond general educational development.

Plumber and/or pipefitter ranks second on the matrix due largely to very good starting wages coupled with significant growth. In 1980 there were 5 openings listed on the Job Bank at the Skowhegan Job Service Office and no active applicants in January 1981. Training for this occupation requires more than 2 years up to and including 4 years and the employment outlook for the near future is for decreasing numbers as the largest proportion of plumbers and pipefitters are employed in the troubled contract construction industry.

Due to good employment and growth, cashier is third on the matrix. With many cashiers employed in food stores, the employment outlook for the future is expected to continue to increase, to include providing numerous openings as a result of replacement needs. In 1980 there were 4 openings listed on the Maine Job Bank and no applicants in January 1981. Training beyond general educational development requires anything beyond a short demonstration up to and including 30 days.

Millwright, most of which are employed in the paper and allied products industry, placed fourth on the matrix. Millwrights placed in this position because of relatively good growth from 1976 to 1980. There were 12 openings on the Maine Job Bank in 1980 and 1 applicant in January 1981. Training requires over 2 years up to and including 4 years. There should be opportunities for replacement and the expansion at the Madison Paper Industries mill could provide new job opportunities.

Nurse aide and/or orderly placed fifth on the matrix due to high employment in 1980 and excellent growth. Wages, however ranked next to last on the matrix, higher only than wages for waiter/waitress. Statewide employment is expected to grow much faster than average with nurse aides and/or orderlies found throughout the health services sector. In January 1981 there were 43 applicants at the Skowhegan Job Service Office and 17 openings in 1980. Training for this occupation requires over 3 months up to and including 6 months.

The top half of the matrix was dominated by occupations in the following three categories, accounting for 18 of the top 33 rank orders: clerical and sales occupations, service occupations, and miscellaneous occupations.

Careful study of the following occupational-indicator matrix can aid planners in an objective analysis of jobs for possible job development and the development of training programs. Each occupation is listed with its Dictionary of Occupational Titles code number and its rank order on the matrix. Included also is the number which represents the scale of Specific Vocational Preparation (SVP) required for the occupation as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, in the report entitled Selected Characteristics of Occupations Defined in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles. The following is a list detailing the SVP code and the preparation time it represents.

<u>Level</u>	<u>Preparation Time</u>
1	Short demonstration only
2	Anything beyond short demonstration up to and including 30 days
3	Over 30 days up to and including 3 months
4	Over 3 months up to and including 6 months
5	Over 6 months up to and including 1 year
6	Over 1 year up to and including 2 years
7	Over 2 years up to and including 4 years
8	Over 4 years up to and including 10 years
9	Over 10 years

This matrix was developed to assist employment and training planners identify occupations which appear most promising for program development. Planners must proceed to combine this information with previous experience and informed judgment to select occupations that are appropriate for program design.

TABLE 1

OCCUPATIONAL-INDICATOR MATRIX
SOMERSET COUNTY

DOT Code	Title	Employment 1/				Job Bank Wages 2/	SVP 3/	Composite Index	Rank Order by Composite Index 4/
		1980	1976	Change 1976-1980					
				Net	Percent				
075	Nurse, Professional.....	169	138	31	22.4	\$5.33	7	51	1
079	Licensed Practical Nurse.....	91	75	16	21.3	3.86	6	89	19
160	Accountant and/or Auditor.....	32	24	8	33.3	5.83	8	101	28
162	Buyer, Retail and/or Wholesale Trade.....	27	19	8	42.1	5.04	6	97	24
185	Manager, Store.....	100	87	13	14.9	3.67	7	98	25
201	Secretary.....	108	83	25	30.1	3.64	6	78	11
209	General Clerk, Office.....	169	148	21	14.1	3.18	2	102	29
210	Bookkeeper, Hand.....	92	82	10	12.1	4.04	6	100	26
211	Cashier.....	204	152	52	34.2	3.50	2	58	3
250	Sales Representative, Sales Agent, and/or Sales Associate.....	47	34	13	38.2	4.30	5	84	16
290	Sales Clerk.....	265	191	74	38.7	3.10	3	71	7
299	Stock Clerk, Sales Floor.....	94	68	26	38.2	3.28	4	84	15
315	Cook, Institution.....	40	21	19	90.4	3.90	7	85	17
318	Kitchen Helper.....	96	76	20	26.3	3.10	2	103	30
355	Nurse Aide and/or Orderly.....	305	213	92	43.1	3.04	4	68	5
382	Janitor, Porter, and Cleaner.....	117	87	30	34.4	3.37	3	72	8
454	Faller and/or Bucker.....	175	157	18	11.4	4.12	3	78	10
600	Machinist.....	41	31	10	32.2	4.57	7	96	23
638	Millwright.....	53	19	34	178.9	4.00	7	62	4
700	Assembler.....	82	54	28	51.8	3.27	5	80	12
786	Sewing Machine Operator, Regular Equipment--Garment.....	69	32	37	115.6	3.12	2	81	14
811	Welder and/or Flamecutter.....	30	18	12	66.7	4.25	5	90	20
824	Electrician.....	41	27	14	51.8	6.58	7	69	6
862	Plumber and/or Pipefitter.....	43	16	27	168.7	6.25	7	56	2
899	Maintenance Repairer, General Utility.....	72	61	11	18.0	4.76	7	91	21
904	Tractor-Trailer-Truck Driver.....	37	25	12	48.0	4.14	4	87	18
920	Production Packager, Hand or Machine.....	129	95	34	35.7	3.10	2	81	13
921	Industrial Truck Operator.....	59	41	18	43.9	4.11	3	72	9
929	Logging Tractor Operator.....	75	66	9	13.6	4.97	4	93	22
951	Stationary Boiler Firer.....	39	19	20	105.2	3.30	5	101	27

1/ Data were compiled through information gathered from annual surveys conducted by the Occupational Employment Statistics Program which is a cooperative Federal-State Program.

2/ Wage data was extracted from the Somerset County and Statewide Job Bank 1980.

3/ Selected Characteristics of Occupations Defined in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, 1981.

4/ When two occupations had the same composite index, the higher rank ordering was given to the occupation with the greatest 1980 employment.

APPENDIX

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION APPLICABLE FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM PLANNING

Strategic employment program planning is a process of examining a local labor market to determine the problems that are most persistent, the population groups affected, and the available jobs for which those persons can be made employable. This appendix identifies selected data that may be analyzed by employment program planners to assess economic conditions in a local labor market. It is not a comprehensive treatment of all available labor market information for analytical purposes. The attempt is to identify only current data of particular importance to strategic employment program planning. Planners are encouraged to contact source agencies for a detailed explanation of each data item identified.

Bureau of Employment Security Reports/Data Items:

Publications

- LMI Newsletters
- Annual Planning Information
- Directory of LMI
- Affirmative Action Information
- Technical Services Monographs
- LMI on Special Worker Groups
- Occupational/Industrial Projections to 1982
- Occupational Staffing Patterns
- Occupational Wages in Manufacturing and Nonmanufacturing Industries
- Occupational Licensing Requirements
- Labor Market Reviews

Data Items

- Current Employment Statistics (CES)
- Labor Turnover Statistics (LTS)
- Employment, Wages, and Contributions (ES-202)
- Employment Security Automated Reporting System (ESARS)
- Characteristics of the Active File (ESARS, T-93)
- Applicants and Nonfarm Job Openings by Classification (ESARS, T-96)
- LMI Analytical Table Series
- Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)
- Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed (ES-203)
- Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory Data (LBL)
- Survey of Income and Education (SIE)

Other Agency Reports Information:

- Census Series (Demographics, Economic)
- Summary Manpower Indicators
- Current Population Reports
- U.S. Industrial Outlook
- BLS Area Wage Surveys
- Current Population Survey
- Employment and Earnings
- Occupational Outlook Handbook
- Employment and Training Report of the President
- Economic Report of the President
- Occupational Information System
- Career Information Delivery System

References for Interpreting LMI:

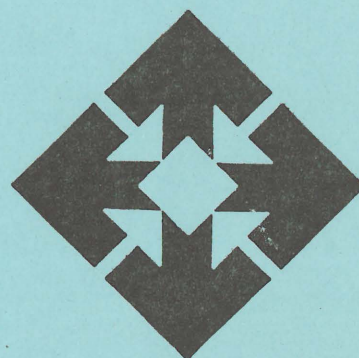
- Standard Industrial Classification Manual (SIC)
- Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT)
- ETA Glossary of Terms
- Cross-Code Index
- BLS Handbook of Methods

Reference Agencies:

- Bureau of Employment Security
- Maine Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (MOICC)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (Regional Office)
- Government Printing Office Bookstores
- U.S. Department of Commerce (District Office)

The perceptual movement of the figure illustrates the two facets of research. Viewed one way, the four small arrows pointing to the central square represent the varied inputs to a research project. Viewed another way, the four large arrows pointing outward represent the widespread dissemination of the results of research.

For further information regarding this report,
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